



The Messenger

The Magazine of the
villages of Great &
Little Bromley

February 2026



THE FIRST PAGE

Is it too late to say it?! It's half way through January as I'm writing so this will probably be the last time I say, 'Happy New Year!' I hope you all had an enjoyable Christmas and that you've managed to get back into the swing of things. I had a lovely long break, time to enjoy the festivities in full with Mr R and the girls. It felt strange to go away for work again this week, having not been since mid-December.

We managed to get a fair bit of DIY done, including painting our kitchen and diner, so it feels like a nice refresh of a busy space. The girls don't like the colour! But we love it, it's a vibrant green called Village Maze, so they'll have to get used to it.

Despite the relentless rain we've had recently, we've at least been spared the heavy snow that has caused disruption elsewhere in the UK. It's been a soggy start to the year, but between the showers, I've noticed daffodils are already well on their way in our garden. We've noticed an influx in birds too - this may have something to do with us losing one of our cats a few months ago. She was always on patrol and her success rate was not pleasant. Our other two cats have less interest in the birds, and so numbers have increased, particularly in

goldfinches, and we also have a family of chaffinches which we've not had before.

Awareness days in February include:

- 5th - World Nutella Day
- 9th - National Pizza Day
- 13th - Digital Learning Day
- 14th - Valentine's Day
- 22nd - World Thinking Day

**Take care,
Lizzie**

*A big thank you to all our authors and contributors, our Treasurer, delivery team, and advertisers. If anyone wants to have a go at writing an article or a short story, please send it in - don't be shy. Any interesting or unusual hobbies, recipes to share or short stories, it's all welcome. As long as it follows the guidelines below, you really can't go wrong. Our village is a tapestry of rich history, diverse talents, and unwavering warmth. Each contribution to this magazine is a thread that strengthens the fabric of our community.

*This month's cover is kindly supplied by Cameron, who captured a beautiful sunrise in Great Bromley in early January.

MATERIAL for the **MARCH 2026** edition of 'The Messenger' should reach the

Editor, Lizzie Ridout, by **14th FEBRUARY 2026** please.

Contributions from anonymous sources will not be printed. Whilst the editor welcomes contributions, photographs etc. this is on the understanding that there is no obligation to publish, that the item may be edited and that there is no breach of copyright. Publication is in good faith and neither the editor nor the publisher accept any liability in respect of the content of any article, photo or advertisement, including any error or omission, responsibility for which remains with the author.

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GREAT BROMLEY PARISH COUNCIL

www.greatbromleyparishcouncil.gov.uk

Clerk: Mrs Lizzie Ridout cILCA

Email: clerk@greatbromleyparishcouncil.gov.uk



The Parish Council has recently co-opted our last two vacancies, with James Pirie and Bashir Goni joining us. We welcome you both and look forward to your contributions.

Going forward, all parish councillors and the clerk will be using official .gov.uk email addresses. This is part of strengthening our data protection and governance arrangements, as required by national audit standards. Using .gov.uk addresses helps ensure council business is kept secure, traceable, and separate from personal email accounts, which is an important element of Assertion 10 in the Annual Governance and Accountability Return. The website address has also been updated with an automatic redirect in place.

A sub-committee, established to consider the 2026-27 budget, has met twice to explore how best to maintain standards and meet expectations in a cost-conscious manner. After careful discussion, the Council agreed a 13.2% increase, setting the precept at £38,150. In absolute terms, this represents an annual increase of £10.07 for the average Band D household.

Our monthly meetings include a public participation slot, where residents are welcome to raise concerns or issues the Parish Council may be able to assist with. At our January meeting, a group of residents used this opportunity to express concerns about a planning application to change a private house into a commercial property for the care of children. The Parish Council

recognised these concerns and, after discussion, supported the objection. You can read the objection in full on the Parish Council website, www.greatbromleyparishcouncil.gov.uk

Over the Christmas break, the village maintenance team were busy addressing several tree-related issues identified in our annual inspection of all trees under Parish Council responsibility. Work included trimming a large bough overhanging the school playground and removing dead branches from trees in Church Meadow while it was closed for the annual 24-hour period to protect the private rights associated with the churchyard. This brief yearly closure is a legal requirement that helps preserve the historic rights of access and ownership attached to the land. By closing it once a year, the Parish Council ensures that these rights remain clearly defined and cannot be lost or challenged over time.

Finally, as many of you will have noticed, we have had a significant amount of rain recently; 71mm in the last 30 days. The ditches around our lanes are essential watercourses designed to move water away from the surrounding area. They are not the place for old Christmas trees, garden waste, or any other rubbish. Blocking these ditches can cause flooding and may even result in water entering someone's home. We also ask everyone to take pride in the village and pick up any litter you see blowing around, and to dispose of household waste responsibly.

Cllr Andrew Fairley

The Deanery Choir will be singing at St Georges Church, Great Bromley CO7 7TS at the 11am communion service.

The choir will sing 'Lord, make me to know thy ways' by William Byrd. Byrd (1540 – 1623) was an English Renaissance composer considered among the greatest composers of the Renaissance, he had a profound influence on composers both from his native country and on the Continent. He is often considered along with John Dunstaple and Henry Purcell as one of England's most important composers of early music.

In 1577, the same year that recusancy (the refusal to attend Anglican services) laws began to be enforced, Byrd and his family moved to Harlington, Middlesex. As a devout lifelong Roman Catholic, he probably preferred the greater privacy of living outside London. Yet, in spite of his close social contact with many other Catholics, some of whom were



**THE
DEANERY
CHOIR**



Supporting Church music in the Tending area

certainly implicated in treasonable activities, his own loyalty to the government was never questioned.

Also in 1591 a manuscript volume of Byrd's keyboard music was prepared for "my Ladye Nevell" (probably Elizabeth, wife of Sir Henry Neville), and many more keyboard pieces found their way into the early 17th-century volume known as the *Fitzwilliam Virginal Book*, copied by another well-known Catholic, Francis Tregian, during his imprisonment in the Fleet Prison.

Graham Bell
Deanery Choir
grahambell493@gmail.com

PLANNING APPLICATION

REF	PROPOSAL	LOCATION
<u>25/01795/</u> <u>FUL</u> Shalamar Children	Planning Application – Change of use from residential dwelling (Use Class C3) to a residential children's home (Use Class C2)	Oak Lodge, Hall Road Great Bromley CO7 7TY

Great Bromley Parish Council objected to the application for the following reasons:

1. Policy Context – LP10

Policy LP10 of the Tending Local Plan supports, in principle, the provision of new care units within defined settlement boundaries. The site lies within the settlement boundary of Great Bromley, and therefore the principle of a care home use is acknowledged. However, LP10 also requires that proposals do not harm residential amenity, provide adequate parking, and respect the character of the village. On these grounds, the proposal is deficient.

2. Loss of Safeguarded Open Space – Policy HP4

The proposal seeks to extend hardstanding at the front of the property, cutting

into land identified as Safeguarded Open Space in the Local Plan.

Policy HP4 states that such space should only be lost where it is replaced in kind, no longer required, or where its loss would not harm visual amenity.

The verge in front of the site contributes to the open character at the centre of Great Bromley. Its reduction would erode the village's visual amenity and character.

The proposal therefore conflicts with Policy HP4.

3. Car Parking Provision and Highway Safety

The management plan indicates:

- Up to 3 children accommodated.
- Two carers on shift at all times, with overlap periods.
- A registered manager and a team of carers on rota.
- Based on Essex Parking Standards, the site should provide:
 - 1 space per full-time staff member (minimum 5 spaces).
 - 1 visitor space per 6 beds.
- Total requirement: at least 6 spaces with turning provision.

The application form states 7 spaces, but the submitted plans do not clearly demonstrate how these can be accommodated. The layout appears cramped, with insufficient turning space to allow vehicles to enter and leave in a forward gear. This raises highway safety concerns and conflicts with LP10's requirement for adequate parking provision. The parking opposite is on private ground and used by the village school and church, the proposal fails to demonstrate compliance with policies CP1 and CP2 which states the application should not give rise to unacceptable highway safety impacts or congestion.

4. Impact on Village Character

Large areas of hardstanding and multiple parked vehicles at the front of the property would be visually intrusive and harmful to the character of the village street scene. This impact conflicts with both LP10 and HP4, which seek to protect local character and amenity.

5. Residential Amenity

While the number of residents is comparable to a large family, the intensity of staff movements, shift changes, and visiting professionals will increase vehicle activity and noise. This has potential to disturb neighbouring properties contrary to LP10's requirement to protect residential amenity. This application would significantly intensify activities materially different from a private dwelling, this application fails to demonstrate compliance with policy SP7 which requires the development does not materially harm neighbouring residential amenity.

6. Conclusion

Although the principle of care provision is supported by Policy LP10, the proposal fails to comply with key requirements relating to:

The protection of Safeguarded Open Space (HP4).

Adequate car parking and highway safety (LP10).

Protection of village character and residential amenity (LP10 and HP4).

For these reasons, the Parish Council respectfully requests that the application is refused.



GREAT BENTLEY DOCTORS' SURGERY

DEMENTIA CAFÉ

Great Bentley will be running a Dementia Café on the 4th Monday of the month, and everyone is welcome. If you are a patient, carer or a family member you are all welcome to attend. Come along and meet us from 11 am to 1 pm at The Methodist Hall, Forge Lane, Great Bentley, where you will find a friendly face and support. We ask for £3 per person, which will help contribute toward the venue, and refreshments.

Upcoming Dates for the Dementia Café:
Monday 26th January: 11am – 1pm
Monday 23rd February: 11am – 1pm
Monday 23rd March: 11am – 1pm

Come along and join us at The Methodist Hall for a coffee and get together with others who are caring and living with Dementia/Alzheimer's. You can also meet and chat to our Social Prescriber. You don't need an invitation, just pop in and say hello. Everyone is welcome!

REQUEST FOR PATIENTS TO WEAR A MASK

We are currently seeing a large number of patients suffering with viral symptoms such as coughs, sore throats and flu symptoms. If you do have these symptoms and are asked to attend an appointment at the Surgery, you will be asked to wear a mask when you come

into the Surgery. If you do not have a mask, then the Surgery will be happy to provide you with one. Wearing a mask not only helps to protect vulnerable patients in our waiting area, but will also help to protect our clinicians and Surgery staff. Your co-operation with this is much appreciated.

PRESCRIPTION REQUESTS ON ASKMYGP

Prescription requests made on AskmyGP need to be completed by the patient on either a Prescription Request Form or a Medication Query Form. Please note that we are not able to take prescription requests over the telephone, so it must be the patient that completes the request form as our reception staff will not be able to do this for patients. Prescriptions can also be requested via the NHS App or by putting a written request in the box by the front door of the Surgery.

SURGERY TRAINING AFTERNOON

Along with all other surgeries in the area we will be shut from 12.00 noon on Tuesday, 24 February 2026 for staff training. If you need urgent medical attention on this afternoon, please contact NHS 111.

PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP MEETING

The PPG will not be holding a meeting in February.

Sue Mitson
Operations Manager

ST MARKS ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH

**St. Mark's, Hawthorn Drive, Ipswich
IP2 0QQ**

**Holy Family Church, Ipswich Road,
Brantham CO11 1TB**

Parish Priest: Rev Fr Luke Goymour

The Presbytery, 180 Hawthorn Drive,
Ipswich IP2 0QQ

Tel: 01473 684963

revgoymour@gmail.com

website: stmarksparish.org.uk

**Father Luke's Sunday sermons are
available at anchor.fm/fr-luke-goymour**

Waiting for an answer to prayers

It can be hard to know why prayers aren't answered immediately or in the way in which we've asked. Sometimes, looking back on our lives, we may understand why God has not answered prayer in the way we expected. We can't limit God or put Him in a box of our own imagination. The basis of all prayer should be trust – and that can be very hard at times, especially when we are in the depths of grief, having lost a loved one. When life seems very difficult the Surrender Prayer can be a very powerful way of handing over our problems to God: "Jesus, I surrender myself to you. Take care of everything." Repeat it 10 times – or more, if necessary! It's especially helpful when you're worrying about something, or

someone, in the middle of the night. You can also find online the Surrender Novena, which you can pray over 9 days. *Jesus I trust in You.*

Weekday and Sunday Masses and devotions

Please consult noticeboards and the parish website in case of weekday mass changes:

Saturday St. Mark's 17.30 vigil mass with confessions from 17.00

**Sunday Holy Family, Brantham 8am
and St. Mark's, Ipswich 11.15am.**

Tuesday Holy Family 10.00 mass, with Eucharistic Adoration from 9.20.

Wednesday St. Mark's 09.30 mass

Friday St. Mark's 12.15 mass, with Eucharistic Adoration from 11.40.

The Sick & Housebound

Please let Fr Luke know of anyone who is ill at home, housebound or in hospital, so that they may receive appropriate pastoral care, he can be contacted on 01473 684963. If you or a family member is in hospital you can also contact the Catholic Lay Chaplain to Ipswich hospital: hospitalchaplain@stmarksparish.org.uk

ARDLEIGH & DISTRICT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Ardleigh & District Horticultural Society "Climate change, Gardening and us" will be the subject of the talk by Clive Boase from the Climate Change Gardening Charity at Ardleigh Village Hall, Station Road, Ardleigh, CO7 7RS

on Thursday 12th February at 7:45pm. Free admission to members, non-members £2. Everyone is welcome.

Rosie Jackson

STOUR VALLEY U3A

Make the most of life once you're no longer in full time work and come and explore new ideas, interests and skills with University of the Third Age.

Across the country U3A members are meeting new people, learning, staying active, and having fun later in life. It's local, social, friendly, low cost and open to all.

We have over 40 interest groups including walking (from strollers to 5+ milers), theatre trips, garden visits, art appreciation, curry club, international dining, science group, languages, keep fit, pickleball, overseas travel, bridge, Sunday Singles lunch there's something for everyone. If we don't have a group you are interested in, you are welcome to start one up.

Membership costs only £15 a year.

Monthly coffee mornings are held on the first Friday of the month 10am –

12pm at the Lambe School, Gaston Street, East Bergholt. Come along, meet some members, hear more about us and decide whether you'd like to join.

Monthly lectures are held on the second Wednesday of the month at 2.15pm in the Constable Hall, Gandish Road, East Bergholt, CO7 6TP. Guests are welcome for a charge of £4. On 11th February Marion Pettet, retired Chairman of Chelmsford Ballet Company, will share her love of dance and theatre with "A Peek Behind the Scenes" and on 11th March Andrew Baker, acclaimed cruise ship lecturer, will return to talk on "The Anatomy of the NHS".

Please take a look at our website <https://stourvalley.u3asite.uk/welcome/> for more information and contact details.

FRIENDSHIP CLUB

Christmas has come and gone in a flash but looking back we had a great turnout for our Christmas Lunch at the Craft Nurseries. For our final meet in December we exchanged our secret Santa gifts and enjoyed Christmas nibbles and music.

Sadly, Magg Clark lost her battle with cancer on 8th Jan 2026. At the time of writing this, the funeral is yet to be arranged. Magg has been a long-standing committee member, friend and has been my righthand man, since I took over the running of the club in

August. She will be sorely missed and our thoughts are with her family at this difficult time.

The overall competition winner for 2025 is Barbara Hall, who will hold the crystal rose bowl until January next year. The competition for February is 'something made of crystal'

New members are always welcome. Just come along to the Cross Inn on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 2pm.

Many thanks
Jane



Great Bromley Village Hall



Volunteer Accounts Examiner Required

The current volunteer examiner for the village hall annual accounts is shortly to move from the village, which will leave a vacancy for this key role before the end of our financial year on 31st March 2026. A volunteer is thus sought to fill this appointment as a matter of urgency.

The role involves reviewing the village hall annual accounts, which will have been prepared for examination by the village hall treasurer at the end of the financial year. The aim of the review is to confirm that, to the best of the examiner's knowledge, the accounts represent accurately the current financial position of the charity. This process is not a formal audit and the examiner needs only as a minimum to

be a 'competent' person with a basic knowledge of cash accounting. No formal qualifications are required and suitable candidates are likely to include active/retired owners of small businesses, current/past treasurers of local organisations, those with some experience of running a cash account and accounting professionals. Total time commitment is likely to be no greater than 12 hours during the auditing period, with all activities being undertaken during the month of April.

If you are willing to volunteer for this key role and would like to find out more about what is involved then please contact Martin Frostick (Village Hall Chairman and Secretary) by email: villagehallsecretary@greatbromley.org.uk

LITTLE BROMLEY CAROL SERVICE

On Tuesday 23rd December 2025 at 3pm, the Friends of Little Bromley Church were pleased to welcome 150 people through the doors to a candlelit interior. Among them, around 15 children joined in with the Carol service led by Fr. Stephen Northfield and the St George's Choir 2.

Lots of singing, readings, and the choir filled the decorated church with joy at Christmas time. The Chair of the Friends thanked The Churches Conservation Trust which owns and

cares for the church, and explained about our continued Bells Appeal, so close to being achieved. Afterwards, refreshments were served.

It was lovely to see so many people. We would like to thank all those who came and all those who helped to make this such a lovely celebration. We would also like to thank all those who contributed over £1000 towards the Bells Appeal.

**Carol Cordwell,
Friend of Little Bromley Church**

MANNINGTREE & DISTRICT PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

Last month club members enjoyed two competitions; the Built Environment and Open Mono, a Field Trip to Colchester Zoo, and a talk by Scott Hurd on living and working as a photographer in Namibia.

Our programme for February is as follows;

- Saturday 7th February – Field Trip Flatford Sunrise
- Thursday 12th February – Talk by Kevin Pigney on Seascapes, Landscapes and Long Exposure Photography
- Monday 23rd February – Harwich and Manningtree Interclub Competition
- Thursday 26th February – Open Colour Print Competition

Our club website has information about membership and activities together with competition results, photo albums and further club information. Our 2025/2026 programme is also on the website. Our public Manningtree Photographic Club Facebook page also

features various club news and activities.

This month's featured image by Alan Moran was the winning image from our recent Open Colour PDI Competition..

We are a small group of photography enthusiasts with a wide range of photographic experience and knowledge. The club aims to provide a friendly environment for members to enjoy the development of their photographic skills through a variety of activities in the company of like-minded individuals.

If you have an interest in photography, at whatever level, you would be most welcome at M&DPS. We meet at Mistley Village Hall, on the 2nd, 4th and 5th Thursdays of the month between September and May at 7.30pm.

For further information please contact our Secretary Pat Ainger on 01206 231242 or email: madps@post.com
Website: https://e-voice.org.uk/manningtreeanddistrictphotographic_society/



CHURCH JOTTINGS

Happy New Year Everyone!

A warm welcome to all our new readers, and to the new folk and friends who have recently moved into Great and Little Bromley. St George's Church is a beautiful and historic place, and also a wonderful family community. Do take a look at our website to find out more about us, everyone is so welcome.

Thank you to everyone who helped us during an unusually busy Christmastide 2025. It was a season full of mixed emotions as we moved into 2026, but by working together we were able to support so many in our community who needed us. A special thank-you to our priests, John and Phillip; we are so fortunate to have two such caring and thoughtful priests.

Looking ahead through 2026, we already have some wonderful events planned. Please keep an eye on the website, look out for posters, and of course read The Messenger so you don't miss anything.

Our main fundraising and community event this year will be our 2026 Flower Festival, taking

place on the last weekend of June, 26th, 27th and 28th, in the Church and Church Meadow. The theme is "Hobbies in Bloom", and it promises to be an inclusive celebration for everyone. We are delighted to be joined by The Seven Rivers Cheshire Home, St George's Primary School, Acorn Village, The Women's Institute, St Helena Hospice, and many of the churches within our group of nine Parishes.

Our next planning meeting is on January 26th at 10.00am in the Church. Please join us if you would like to help, everyone is welcome.

Thank you for all your love and support. If you need anything, please feel free to phone me at any time: 01206 230688

With love, Jenny xx



Dates for your diary



FEBRUARY

11	Great Bromley Parish Council, Village Hall	7:30pm
12	Ardleigh & Dist. Horticultural Society, Ardleigh Village Hall	7:45pm
14	Valentine's Day	
17	Shrove Tuesday	
17	Chinese New Year	
18	Ash Wednesday	
19	Great Bromley Friendship Club, The Cross	2:00-4:00pm
23	Dementia Café, Methodist Hall, Forge Lane, Gt Bentley	11:00-1:00pm

MARCH

11	Great Bromley Parish Council, Village Hall	7:00pm
19	Little Bromley Parish Council, The Haywain	7:30pm
23	Dementia Café, Methodist Hall, Forge Lane, Gt Bentley	11:00-1:00pm

APRIL

3	Good Friday	
5	Easter Sunday	
8	Great Bromley Parish Council, Village Hall	7:00pm
22	Earth Day	

THE PRIORITY SERVICES REGISTER

If you are not aware of the Priority Services Register, this may be of interest to you or someone you know.

The Priority Services Register (PSR) is a free UK-wide service offering extra help during electricity, gas, or water supply interruptions.

You may be eligible if you or someone in your household relies on medical equipment, has a disability, long-term illness, dementia, mental health difficulties, refrigerated medicines, is of pensionable age, or has children under five.

Support during a power cut can include:

- A 24/7 priority contact number

- Text and voice alerts about local outages and severe weather

- Tailored support such as home visits, hot meals, welfare checks, and updates for family or friends

- In some cases, hotel accommodation and transport

- On-site community support with hot food, drinks, Wi-Fi, and charging points during major outages

To join the PSR, contact your local electricity network operator, gas distributor, and water supplier, as each runs its own register. You can find your providers using your postcode on the Energy Networks Association and Water UK websites, then apply online, by phone, or by post.

The Mobile Library visits every three weeks at Church Meadow on a Thursday - next dates are:

- 5 Feb
- 26 Feb
- 19 March

9.45am to 10.15am



Post Office & Community Library
The Great Bromley Cross Pub



Wednesdays
10.00am - 12 noon



Did you know? Our local area has three Automated External Defibrillators. You can access these at:

- The Courthouse, Harwich Road, CO7 7JG
- The Great Bromley Cross Pub, Ardleigh Road, CO7 7TL
- The Haywain, Bentley Road, CO11 2PL

Also at The Great Bromley Cross Pub is a Bleed Kit. The kit, provided by Great Bromley Parish Council, contains specialist equipment to help stem extreme blood loss before ambulance crews arrive.

Bleed control kits, also known as emergency trauma packs, are similar to first aid kits but include trauma dressings, gauze, chest seals and tourniquets to help stop serious bleeding. They can help victims of violent crime, those involved in road traffic accidents or workplace accidents, and could be particularly useful in rural areas where ambulance response times may be slower.

Don't ignore it - Report it at www.essexhighways.org



Essex Highways carry out regular inspections of roads and pavements, but issues may come up between these inspections. These could be potholes or other road surface issues, damaged street lights, street signs, overgrown trees, or issues with public rights of way.

Report maintenance issues online by using the highways reporting tool. If you think there's a risk to public safety please call 0345 603 7631 or if you have hearing problems you can use the text phone service on 0345 758 5592.

LITTLE BROMLEY PARISH COUNCIL

www.littlebromleyparishcouncil.gov.uk

Clerk: Mrs Lizzie Ridout CLCA

Email: clerk@littlebromleyparishcouncil.gov.uk

It has been an extremely busy time for the Parish Council this past few months!

Firstly, we want to say a huge thank you to Dawn for all her work and support over more than a decade as our Parish Clerk, a role she undertook purely as a volunteer, without ever taking payment. We are extremely grateful to her for everything she has done for the Parish Council and for the Village.

The Government has now announced the date on which Tendring District Council and Essex County Council will be abolished and all further elections have been suspended, meaning existing Councillors will remain in post until a new single-tier structure is in place, even though the Government has not yet decided what form that will take! In the meantime, parish councils remain the only properly functioning form of local government in Essex, adding to our responsibilities!

The costs of running the Parish Council keep escalating as ever more bureaucracy is imposed upon us. We are forced by law to pay a registration fee to the ICO (Information Commissioner's Office) just because, according to the ICO, the Parish Council is an organisation that processes personal information, although there is zero benefit to the residents of the village for that expenditure. We intend to complain to the ICO that charities are exempt from payment, so we feel we should be too!

We are also having to develop a new website and switch to .gov email addresses to ensure compliance with new government guidelines and are having to budget accordingly, and we are about to start the process of updating all the Parish Council's policies and procedure rules. You can view the new website at <https://www.littlebromleyparishcouncil.gov.uk/>.

The Village website still exists and can be viewed at <https://www.littlebromley.org.uk/>

An Extraordinary Meeting of the Parish Council was held on 8 January, at which we appointed Lizzie Ridout as our new Interim Clerk as well as agreeing the budget for 2026/2027. This year we have had to increase the precept (the amount residents have to pay with their Council Tax bill) by a huge amount in percentage terms in order to meet our budgetary commitments, even though our running costs are still one of the lowest of any parish council in the county.

Just before Christmas we delivered a survey questionnaire to every house in the Village about the Neighbourhood Plan, and we are delighted that there has been a tremendous response. A first draft of a proposed plan will emerge shortly based on the responses we received.

Our next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Thursday 19 March at the Haywain commencing at 19:30. We look forward to seeing you there.

Little Bromley Parish Council

MAUREEN JANE MORLING (née Sparrow)

5th June 1937 – 1st November 2025

Maureen was born to parents Kate and George Sparrow in Hare Green, Great Bromley, the youngest of three children, following her sister Sylvia and brother Peter.

She attended Great Bromley school during the war which left many people homeless. When the Sparrow's home was condemned, they moved into the RAF camp (behind Hamilton Lodge) that became one of many military bases used to provide temporary housing after the war. Maureen recalled the move with great excitement

because they had electricity for the first time – the children got told off for repeatedly turning the lights off and on! There were not enough clothes lines to go round, so Maureen's mother would go out late at night to be first to hang the washing ready to dry the next day.

When her Dad began working on a farm in Little Bentley the family moved to Pelham's Corner. Another new job for him meant they moved back to Balls Green in Great Bromley in a bungalow named "Wilmacott". After some renovations were carried out, Maureen was delighted to have her first ever proper bath with running taps at home! One of her fond memories was of wet Sunday afternoons when the children would ask her Dad if they could look through his treasured and well-worn photo album, showing pictures of him on horseback in the Royal Hussars at the end of the First World War.

In 1955 a handsome young German moved to Little Bentley with his mother. It was at a local dance that Maureen met Rudi. He spoke no English at all, so communication was a challenge. However, after a short time, a romance developed and they got married in June 1956. Maureen was a devoted wife and wonderful mother, bringing up her two boys, Ingo and Dean, on limited housekeeping money. The family had many happy times together, going on holidays to Germany to visit the places where Rudi grew up. They moved to Colchester where there were more job opportunities. She tried many different types of work through her life and liked nothing more than to have conversations with people she met - she loved talking to anyone at all, and was always very much a chatterbox! Sadly, there were many strains on the marriage and in the early 70s Maureen and Rudi were divorced.

When Maureen was in her 40s, she met Robert Morling, known to all as "Good Old Bob". They married in June 1984 and enjoyed many happy years together in



Elmstead Market with their little dogs and lovely garden. In Maureen's later years she volunteered at charity events in the community. She would frequently come back to Great Bromley for Village Hall and Church events.

Maureen was very humble by nature and didn't need a lot in life to be happy. Nothing was ever too much trouble for her, she was always happy to help wherever she could. She shall remain forever in the hearts of those who knew her.



HGF from the family eulogy.

A picture of young Maureen at the camp appeared in the November Messenger.

UK SAFER INTERNET CENTRE – SUPPORT FOR STAYING SAFE ONLINE

The UK Safer Internet Centre is a national organisation dedicated to making the online world safer and more positive for everyone. It brings together expert charities to offer practical help, clear guidance, and trusted resources for children, young people, families, and professionals.

The Centre provides an Awareness Centre with up-to-date advice on online issues, a helpline for professionals who need support with online safety concerns, and a hotline for reporting criminal online content so it can be removed quickly and safely. They also run regular training sessions and events covering topics such as privacy, social media, gaming, and digital wellbeing.

Their website includes a wide range of free tools, guides, and resources designed to help people

of all ages navigate the internet confidently and responsibly — whether you're a parent trying to keep children safe, a professional supporting others, or simply someone wanting to stay informed.

Who it's for:

All ages - including parents, carers, teachers, youth workers, and anyone seeking support with online safety.

Nationwide support:

Contact details:

- 0344 800 2382
- enquiries@saferinternet.org.uk
- saferinternet.org.uk



UK Safer Internet Centre

DAWN SUPPORT

This June, Great Bromley will be hosting a trio of community favourites: an Open Garden Day, a Scarecrow Trail, and a Village wide Garage Sale. All in support of the Village Hall.

We are currently gathering names of residents who would like to take part in one, two, or all three activities. Whether you have a garden to share, a scarecrow idea waiting to come to life, or a garage to empty we'd love to hear from you.

If you're interested in taking part, please email annie@dawnsupport.co.uk.

This is an important article

A post is circulating on social media which claims that women born in the 1950s are about to win back the right to retire at 60, and that a major court case is happening in June. This information is incorrect.

The "Back to 60" campaign did take the Government to court, but this happened in 2019, and both the High Court and Court of Appeal ruled against the claim. There is no new court case, and therefore no "media blackout".

The State Pension age was raised and equalised for men and women through

laws passed in 1995 and 2011, and these changes remain in place.

The Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman has looked at how the changes were communicated and found some administrative failings, but this does not affect the pension age itself.

If you see the post being shared, please be aware that it is outdated and inaccurate. For reliable updates, check official sources such as the DWP or the Ombudsman.

Annie Sands

EDITOR'S NOTE:

For safety, we have not published the entire post.

The post begins with the following words. *"When I was 18, the government made an agreement with me, that if I paid National Insurance every week, they would give me a pension when I was 60*

I kept my end of the deal!!!"

The post continues after these words but this should give you an idea of what to avoid if you happen to see the post.

Please also see the article about the UK Safer Internet Centre on page 25.

PLANNING DETERMINATION

REF	PROPOSAL	LOCATION	DECISION
25/01578/ FULHH Mr and Mrs Crisell	Householder Planning Application – Front porch.	Denique, Mary Lane South, Great Bromley CO7 7UD	Approval – Full 09.12.2025 Delegated Decision

CLOSURE OF THE CROSSMAN CHARITY 1792-2025

After more than 230 years of operation the charity 'Reverend Henry Crossman's Bequest' was closed by the trustees in November 2025.

Henry Crossman was born in 1711. He attended Emmanuel College, Cambridge, and was ordained deacon at Norwich in 1731. He was appointed Rector of Little Bromley in 1736, and also Rector of Little Cornard, Sudbury in 1744.

He wrote several devotional and instructional books. He was very worried that the masters and parents in rural areas were only concerned with the work provided by their servants and children. He wanted those in power to encourage them to attend their local church and "to have knowledge of God and their duty".

'Campaigning Cleric', an article of 1989 by Allan W Berry, gives a biography of Crossman and the controversies he was involved in. (ref. ISBN 0 9512755 3 4).

In 1760, after living in Little Bromley for 24 years, he moved back to Sudbury. In 1768 his daughter Elizabeth married Edward Green of Lawford Hall. His wife died in 1790 and he went to live with his daughter and son in law.

Rector Henry Crossman served Little Bromley until he died in 1792 aged 81 years. He was buried at Little Bromley where a tablet in the chancel commemorates his 56 years as Rector.

The Charity 'Reverend Henry Crossman's Bequest' (Charity 310785)

was founded by his will made in 1790. The income from £100 of 2 ½% Consolidated Stock was to be used to support the Sunday School at Little Bromley and to provide yearly, a copy of the Founder's book, 'Explanation of the Catechism'.

In 1992 the Reverend Paul Davies, trustee, had the object of the Charity changed. Little Bromley Church had been closed and the Parishes of Great and Little Bromley united. There was no longer a Sunday School at Little Bromley and the Founder's book had not been in print for over a century. The Charity Commission agreed (1993) that the Charity could now provide copies of the Bible for the pupils of Great Bromley C of E Primary School.

In 2024, it was agreed by the remaining Trustees of the Charity, that with an annual income of around £22, it was sensible to close the Charity.

In November 2025 the Charity finally closed. The COIF Investment Shares had been sold which enabled the Trustees to give the school over £800 for the purpose of purchasing bibles or related Christian resources for the children. The school has now received all the monies from the Charity.

How wonderful that this Charity has been able to help the Parishes of Little and Great Bromley for so many years. THANK YOU, REVEREND HENRY CROSSMAN.

***Carol Cordwell,
Trustee and Correspondent.***

RECTOR'S LETTER

Dear Friends,

As February arrives, we find ourselves once again on the threshold of Lent, a significant season in the Christian Calendar marked by Reflection, Repentance, and Renewal. This year, Ash Wednesday falls on 18th February, inviting us to pause and consider our everyday actions and attitudes in daily life – a good discipline for everyone whether they have a faith or not. In our parishes, we will mark Ash Wednesday with services of Holy Communion, offering all an opportunity to receive the imposition of ashes and reflect together. The imposition of ashes is being marked in ash with a small cross on our foreheads, made from last year's Palm Sunday crosses. This serves as a poignant reminder of our human frailty and the call to turn our hearts back to God. "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return" (Genesis 3 verse 19) echoes through our churches, prompting us to embrace humility and seek forgiveness.

Lent is a journey of forty days (excluding Sundays), echoing Jesus' time spent fasting in the wilderness. It is a time for spiritual discipline, whether through prayer, fasting, or charitable giving. Many choose to give up luxuries or take on new commitments, but the

essence of Lent is not merely self-denial. Instead, it is a chance to deepen our relationship with God and one another, to clear away distractions, and to open ourselves to transformation. As we begin this sacred season, let us all take the opportunity to pause, reflect and notice our relationships with one another; in our families and in our communities and work/school places.

Let us all approach this season with open hearts, ready to be shaped by compassion and care for one another in these dark winter days, anticipating better times as surely as spring follows winter. For Christians, it is God's love and grace that we are particularly thankful for as we approach Easter, and it is God's love we seek to imitate and share. Lent is not only a time for personal growth, but also for strengthening the bonds within our community. May our journey this Lent lead us to Easter with a deeper sense of Hope and Joy.

Best wishes
Revd John Saxon

Ash Wednesday Holy Communion Services will be at Dedham Church, 8.00am, Great Bromley Church, 11.00am (with the Litany) and Wrabness Church 7.30pm





St George's Church, Great Bromley

For St George's contacts, information, or to receive our email newsletter, please visit www.greatbromley.org.uk or email us at church@greatbromley.org.uk

Feb 1 st	Candlemas	Parish Eucharist BCP with choir	11am
Feb 8 th	2 nd before Lent	Parish Eucharist with choir	11am
Feb 15 th	Next before Lent	Evensong BCP with choir	6.30pm
Feb 18 th	Ash Wednesday	Litany & Holy Communion	11am
		BCP with choir	
Feb 22 nd	Lent 1	Parish Eucharist	11am
Mar 1 st	Lent 2	Parish Eucharist BCP with choir	11am
Mar 8 th	Lent 3	Parish Eucharist with choir	11am

St Mary's Church, Little Bentley

Feb 1 st	Morning Prayer	11am
Feb 15 th	Holy Communion	11am
Mar 1 st	Morning Prayer	11am
Mar 15 th	Holy Communion	11am

Tendring and Dedham Parishes (TADP) – for the group bulletin and news see www.tendringdedhamparishes.org.uk